



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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U K R A I N E

USAID/Ukraine and Donbass Fuel and Energy Company Sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation

On December 28, 2007, USAID/Ukraine Deputy Director Peter Argo and Donbass Fuel and Energy Company (DTEC) Chief Executive Officer Maxym Tymchenko signed a public – private partnership memorandum of cooperation. This partnership will focus on the development of economic strategic plans at the local level, capacity development of city administration and improvements in the investment climate.



USAID/Ukraine Deputy Mission Director Peter Argo and DTEC Chief Executive Officer after signing a Memorandum of Cooperation

USAID and DTEC will partner with the governments of seven cities in eastern Ukraine where DTEC has a presence in developing strategic plans for the social and economic development of the cities.

Initially, DTEC will contribute \$150,000 to the partnership which will bring in private and non-profit organizations into the planning process.

Expanded collaboration is expected once implementation of the strategic plans begins.

ATCI Assists Berdyansk to Attract Funds for Infrastructure Development

On December 28, 2007, the city of Berdyansk placed a UAH 10 million bond with Perspektiva, a national securities trading platform, for five years at 11.5 percent interest. The Alfa Bank has agreed to underwrite the bond issue.

Proceeds will be used for road repair (UAH 7 million); roof repairs for residential housing (UAH 2 million); and improvements to street lighting (UAH 1 million).

In May 2007, Berdyansk received Ministry of Finance approval for the UAH 10 million bond issue (approximately \$2 million). Moody's Investor Services assigned the bond a B1 rating on the global scale and an Aa3.ua on the national scale.

USAID Access to Credit Initiative helped the city to develop and issue the bond.

Upcoming Events

February 6, Third Philanthropy Conference, Kyiv.

February 7, Regional Mission Director Earl Gast trip to Sevastopol: LED kick off.

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M O L D O V A

National Prize Awarded to USAID Partner

For the second year in a row, a journalist cooperating with the USAID Anti-Trafficking Project received national recognition for her anti-trafficking work.



Ms. Vatamanu-Margineanu accepts her award at the 2007 Human Rights Gala

Leontina Vatamanu-Margineanu, who directs, writes and presents the Destinies and Destinations television program for the Anti-Trafficking Project, was awarded the top prize in the television category at the 2007 Human Rights Gala for two episodes that she produced. The Gala was held on International Human Rights Day, December 10, and was conducted jointly by the United Nations and the Moldova Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights to recognize initiatives that protect and promote human rights in Moldova.

One of Leontina's winning episodes examined the consequences of outward migration from Moldova, including a profile of a village with only one remaining resident. Leontina noted during her acceptance speech that she had recently received word that the town's sole remaining inhabitant had died, leaving the village home to nothing but memories.

Moldovan Tax Inspectors Improve their Taxpayer Service Techniques

On December 5 - 14, 2007, the Moldova Governance Threshold Country Program in collaboration with the State Tax Inspectorate of Moldova conducted training sessions on Basic Taxpayer Service Techniques and a follow-up Training of Trainers (TOT) on the same topic. The trainings will help tax inspectors improve the quality of services nationwide, with TOT graduates replicating the training in all raion tax services across Moldova.

Reform of the tax administration is a priority goal of the Moldova Governance Threshold Country Program. Improving taxpayer services and the professionalism of tax collectors will ultimately help to reduce opportunities for corruption and improve efficiency in tax assessments and collections.

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